Commissioning of rice straw fired Thermal Plant at Jalkheri

@@4786. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 10 MW Rice straw fired thermal plant, the first of its type in the country, has been commissioned at Jalkheri village near Patiala; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A 10 MW Rice straw fired pilot power plant installed at Jalkheri in Punjab was test fired and loaded upto 8.5 MW on 14 June 1992 before being shut down for statutory inspections. The plant will be restarted for full power proving trails during end Septemper, 1992. It will be commissioned after the forthcoming paddy harvest in end Oct. 1992 and thereafter operated on a sustained basis to optimize plant performance, the straw collection, transportation, baling and storage systems.

This pilot project, first of its kind in the world, incorporating fluidized bed combustion and high pressure and temperature stream condition (62 ata. and 445'C) costs about Rs. 35.5 crores. It has been jointly financed by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources through a grant-in-aid of Rs. 12.5 crores and the Punjab Government/Punjab State Electricity Board which has met the balance capital cost and installed by BHEL. The project aims at creating a market for surplus rice straw in Punjab thereby generating additional income for farmers and employment for rural youth; reducing environmental pollution and smoke nuisance caused by uncontrolled burning of millions of tonnes of paddy straw on the field for disposal; and at reducing dependence on coal by encouraging decentralised power generation based on a renewable fuel.

National biogas development scheme in hilly areas

4787. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the National Biogas Development Scheme;

(b) whether the scheme is being implemented in Almora, Ranikhet and Nainital in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, to what extent the scheme has helped the people of those hill areas in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) what is the total number of bio-gas plants set up, so far in these cities and the steps being taken to set up more such plants in Kumaon area of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD) caters to promotion of family type biogas plants in the country and it has provisions for technical and training support, Central subsidy, turnkey job fee, promotional cash incentives, service charges, repair and maintenance charges, establishment of Regional Biogas Development and Training Centres, field demonstrations on manure, monitoring and evaluation and publicity.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 3603 transferred from 11th August, 1992.